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Mission Statement

The Working Group seeks to fundamentally change the practice of indigent representation in the State of Mississippi. We understand that we represent people, not cases, and we embrace an ethos where the client's needs are primary. We understand that our collaboration is a necessity because we share clients and the actions taken in one court can have a profound impact on the outcome in another. In order to represent the whole client, we seek to build a community of collaboration where we share resources, knowledge, training, and support between state and federal defenders. Our mission calls for regularized interaction between attorneys who represent the same client with pending matters in state and federal courts. Through our collaboration, we will improve the quality of representation for the indigent community ensuring equal access to justice. We will strive for stronger advocacy for our clients at all stages of representation. We are committed to preserving our clients' rights to challenge the constitutionality of governmental conduct. Through joint training, and strategic initiatives, we aim to build a cohesive community that will demand a set of best practices and require all practitioners to understand what their clients are facing in all jurisdictions where they may be prosecuted. To accomplish this goal, several Federal and State Public Defender training opportunities will be made available throughout the year.

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